

APPENDIX I.

137

As the evening was drawing near we re-
 turned all together on board our ships, intending to explore the
 country better on the next or third day. It was not possible to
 determine whether these people have a king, as there are no great
 distinctions between them; save that the eldest among them wore
 white feathers on their heads, like ostrich feathers in appearance,
 and carried a staff in their hands. But one could perceive that
 each household was independent, wherein the most elderly of its
 men took the lead.

This island is a suitable and convenient place at which to
 obtain refreshment, as all the country is under cultivation and we
 saw in the distance whole tracts of woodland [*ganze Wälder*]. It
 should be possible to grow corn all over it, and even to plant vine-
 yards, which might be very serviceable in the event of a new
 discovery of the South Land. We got a gale from the West here,
 so that we lost two anchors and were forced to put to sea: and it
 might easily have happened that we had all been stranded with
 the three ships, and so have sojourned with the natives of the
 island. I have often felt thankful that if such had really come to
 pass the people of this island appeared of such a disposition as to
 be easily brought to the Christian Faith.

We cruised for some days yet round about here, and made
 courses on every point of the compass; but there was no David's
 land to be seen. We therefore headed away towards Schouten's
 foul water [*schlecht wasser*] to the Westward in the intent to
 discover some land.